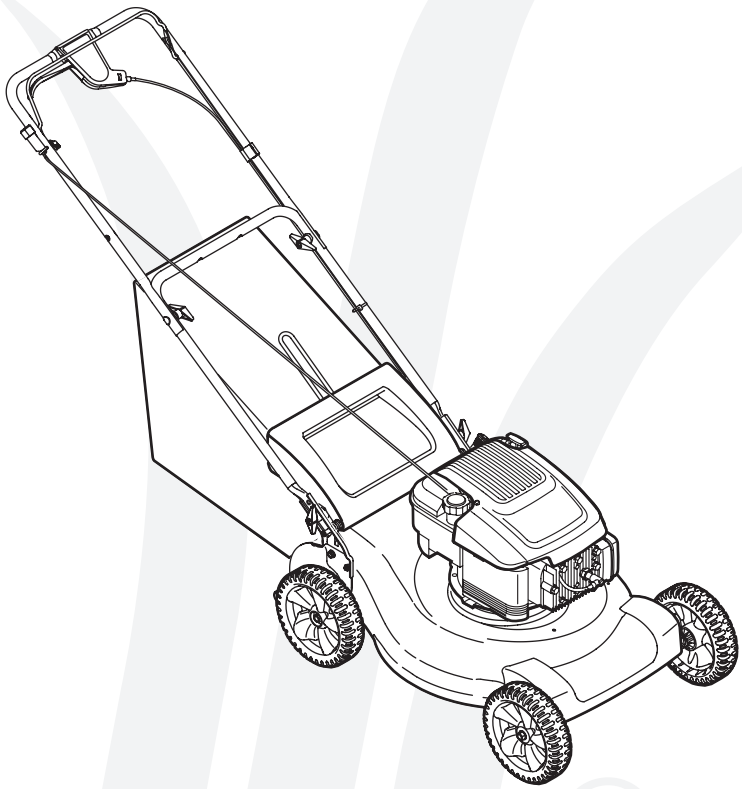
OPERATOR'S MANUAL

YARD-MAN by MTD



21" Rotary Mower — Model 829

IMPORTANT

READ SAFETY RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE OPERATION

Warning: This unit is equipped with an internal combustion engine and should not be used on or near any unimproved forest-covered, brush-covered or grass-covered land unless the engine's exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrester meeting applicable local or state laws (if any). If a spark arrester is used, it should be maintained in effective working order by the operator. In the State of California the above is required by law (Section 4442 of the California Public Resources Code). Other states may have similar laws. Federal laws apply on federal lands. A spark arrester for the muffler is available through your nearest engine authorized service dealer or contact the service department, P.O. Box 361131 Cleveland, Ohio 44136-0019.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

MTD LLC, P.O. BOX 361131 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44136-0019

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1/4/2005

This Operator's Manual is an important part of your new lawn mower. It will help you assemble, prepare and maintain the unit for best performance. Please read and understand what it says.

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Finding and Recording Model Number

BEFORE YOU START ASSEMBLING
YOUR NEW EQUIPMENT,
please locate the model plate on the equipment and copy the information to the sample model plate provided to the right. You can locate the model plate by standing at the operating position and looking down at the rear of the deck . This information will be necessary to use the manufacturer's web site and/or obtain assistance from the Customer Support Department or an authorized service dealer.

Model Number _____ **Serial Number** _____

YARD-MAN by MTD
www.yardman.com

MTD LLC
P. O. BOX 361131
CLEVELAND, OH 44136
330-220-4683
800-800-7310

Customer Support

Please do *NOT* return the unit to the retailer from which it was purchased, without first contacting Customer Support.

If you have difficulty assembling this product or have any questions regarding the controls, operation or maintenance of this unit, you can seek help from the experts. Choose from the options below:

1. Visit **yardman.com** for many useful suggestions. Click on Customer Support button and you will get the four options reproduced in this sample to the right. Click on the appropriate button and help is immediately available.
2. Phone a **Customer Support Representative** at 1(800) 800-7310.
3. The **engine manufacturer** is responsible for all engine-related issues with regards to performance, power-rating, specifications, warranty and service. Please refer to the engine manufacturer's Owner's/Operator's Manual, packed separately with your unit, for more information.

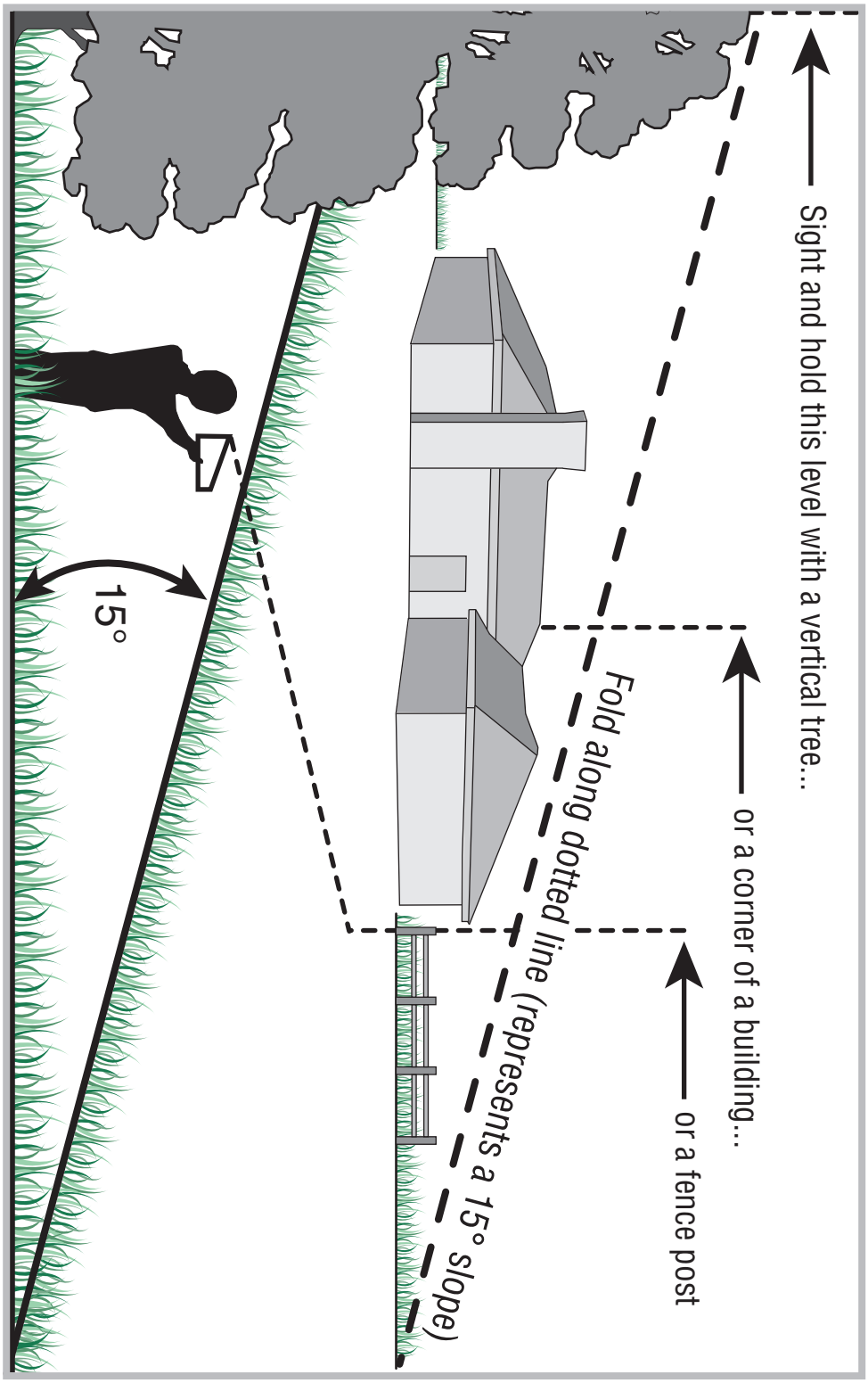
Find Answers
Click here to search our knowledge base.
Search by product, keyword, or phrase.

My Stuff
Login to check the status of your questions, modify your inquiries, or update your personal profile.

Service Locator
Need local assistance? Click here to find authorized service centers in your area.

Manuals Online
Need a manual and/or parts list? Download literature from recent model years.

Use this page as a guide to determine slopes where you may not operate safely. **Do not operate** your lawn mower on such slopes.


Sight and hold this level with a vertical tree...
or a corner of a building...
or a fence post
Fold along dotted line (represents a 15° slope)
15°

1 Slope Gauge

WARNING

Do not mow on inclines with a slope in excess of 15 degrees (a rise of approximately 2-1/2 feet every 10 feet). A riding mower could overturn and cause serious injury. If operating a walk-behind mower on such a slope, it is extremely difficult to maintain your footing and you could slip, resulting in serious injury.

Operate RIDING mowers up and down slopes, never across the face of slopes.

Operate WALK-BEHIND mowers across the face of slopes, never up and down slopes.

2

Safe Operation Practices

WARNING

This symbol points out important safety instructions which, if not followed, could endanger the personal safety and/or property of yourself and others. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate this machine. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol.

HEED ITS WARNING

Your Responsibility

Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

WARNING: Engine Exhaust, some of its constituents, and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals known to State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

DANGER: This machine was built to be operated according to the rules for safe operation in this manual. As with any type of power equipment, carelessness or error on the part of the operator can result in serious injury. This machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.

Children

Tragic accidents can occur if operator is not alert to presence of children. Children are often attracted to mower and mowing activity. They do not understand the dangers. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.

1. Keep children out of the mowing area and under watchful care of a responsible adult other than the operator.
2. Be alert and turn mower off if a child enters the area.
3. Before and while moving backwards, look behind and down for small children.
4. Use extreme care when approaching blind corners, doorways, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure your vision of a child who may run into the mower.
5. Keep children away from hot or running engines. They can suffer burns from a hot muffler.
6. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate a power mower. Children 14 years old and over should read and understand operation instructions and safety rules in this manual and should be trained and supervised by a parent.

General Operation

1. Read this operator's manual carefully in its entirety before attempting to assemble this machine. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the manual(s) before operation. Be completely familiar with the controls and the proper use of this machine before operating it. Keep this manual in a safe place for future and regular reference and for ordering replacement parts.
2. This machine is a precision piece of power equipment, not a plaything. Therefore, exercise extreme caution at all times. Your unit has been designed to perform one job: to mow grass. Do not use it for any other purpose.
3. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate this machine. Children 14 years old and over should read and understand the instructions in this manual and should be trained and supervised by a parent. Only responsible individuals who are familiar with these rules of safe operation should be allowed to use this machine.
4. Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used. Remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones, toys and other foreign objects which could be tripped over or picked up and thrown by the blade. Thrown objects can cause serious personal injury. Plan your mowing pattern to avoid discharge of material toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like. Also, avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction which may cause discharged material to ricochet back toward the operator.
5. To help avoid blade contact or a thrown object injury, stay in operator zone behind handles and keep children, bystanders, helpers and pets at least 75 feet from mower while it is in operation. Stop machine if anyone enters area.
6. Always wear safety glasses or safety goggles during operation and while performing an adjustment or repair to protect your eyes. Thrown objects which ricochet can cause serious injury to the eyes.
7. Wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting slacks and shirts. Shirts and pants that cover the arms and legs and steel-toed shoes are recommended. Never operate this machine in bare feet, sandals, slippery or light weight (e.g. canvas) shoes.
8. Do not put hands or feet near rotating parts or under cutting deck. Contact with blade can amputate hands and feet.
9. A missing or damaged discharge cover can cause blade contact or thrown object injuries.
10. Many injuries occur as a result of the mower being pulled over the foot during a fall caused by slipping or tripping. Do not hold on to the mower if you are falling; release the handle immediately.
11. Never pull the mower back toward you while you are walking. If you must back the mower away from a wall or obstruction first look down and behind to avoid tripping and then follow these steps:
    a. Step back from mower to fully extend your arms.
    b. Be sure you are well balanced with sure footing.
    c. Pull the mower back slowly, no more than half way toward you.
    d. Repeat these steps as needed.
12. Do not operate the mower while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
13. Do not engage the self-propelled mechanism on units so equipped while starting engine.
14. The blade control handle is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operation. Doing so makes the safety device inoperative and may result in personal injury through contact with the rotating blade. The blade control handle must operate easily in both directions and automatically return to the disengaged position when released.
15. Never operate the mower in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. If you feel you are losing your footing, release the blade control handle immediately and the blade will stop rotating within three seconds.
16. Mow only in daylight or good artificial light. Walk, never run.
17. Stop the blade when crossing gravel drives, walks or roads.
18. If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
19. Shut the engine off and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before removing the grass catcher or unclogging the chute.

The cutting blade continues to rotate for a few seconds after the engine is shut off. Never place any part of the body in the blade area until you are sure the blade has stopped rotating.

20. Never operate mower without proper trail shield, discharge cover, grass catcher, blade control handle or other safety protective devices in place and working. Never operate mower with damaged safety devices. Failure to do so, can result in personal injury.
21. Muffler and engine become hot and can cause a burn. Do not touch.
22. Only use parts and accessories made for this machine by manufacturer. Failure to do so can result in personal injury.
23. If situations occur which are not covered in this manual, use care and good judgment. Contact your dealer for assistance. Telephone 1-800-800-7310 for the name of your nearest dealer.

Slope Operation

Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents which can result in severe injury. Operation on slopes requires extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, do not mow it. For your safety, use the slope gauge included as part of this manual to measure slopes before operating this unit on a sloped or hilly area. If the slope is greater than 15 degrees, do not mow it.

Do:

1. Mow across the face of slopes; never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
2. Watch for holes, ruts, rocks, hidden objects, or bumps which can cause you to slip or trip. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
3. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. If you feel you are losing your balance, release the blade control handle immediately, and the blade will stop rotating within 3 seconds.

Do Not:

1. Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches or embankments, you could lose your footing or balance.
2. Do not mow slopes greater than 15 degrees as shown on the slope gauge.
3. Do not mow on wet grass. Unstable footing could cause slipping.

Service

Safe Handling Of Gasoline:

1. To avoid personal injury or property damage use extreme care in handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. Serious personal injury can occur when gasoline is spilled on yourself or your clothes which can ignite.
2. Wash your skin and change clothes immediately.
3. Use only an approved gasoline container.
4. Never fill containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer bed with a plastic liner. Always place containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling.
5. Remove gas-powered equipment from the truck or trailer and refuel it on the ground. If this is not possible, then refuel such equipment on a trailer with a portable container, rather than from a gasoline dispenser nozzle.
6. Keep the nozzle in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or container opening at all times until fueling is complete. Do not use a nozzle lock-open device.
7. Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.
8. Never fuel machine indoors because flammable vapors will accumulate in the area.
9. Never remove gas cap or add fuel while engine is hot or running. Allow engine to cool at least two minutes before refueling.
10. Never over fill fuel tank. Fill tank to no more than ½ inch below bottom of filler neck to provide for fuel expansion.
11. Replace gasoline cap and tighten securely.
12. If gasoline is spilled, wipe it off the engine and equipment. Move unit to another area. Wait 5 minutes before starting engine.
13. Never store the machine or fuel container near an open flame, spark or pilot light as on a water heater, space heater, furnace ,clothes dryer or other gas appliances.
14. To reduce fire hazard, keep mower free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up. Clean up oil or fuel spillage and remove any fuel soaked debris.
15. Allow a mower to cool at least 5 minutes before storing.

General Service:

1. Never run an engine indoors or in a poorly ventilated area. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas.
2. Before cleaning, repairing, or inspecting, make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting.
3. Check the blade and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness. Also, visually inspect blade for damage (e.g., bent, cracked, worn) Replace blade with the original equipment manufacture's (O.E.M.) blade only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety!"
4. Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blade or wear gloves, and use extra caution when servicing them.
5. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
6. Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
7. After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine. Thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage. Repair the damage before starting and operating the mower.
8. Never attempt to make a wheel or cutting height adjustment while the engine is running.
9. Grass catcher components, discharge cover, and trail shield are subject to wear and damage which could expose moving parts or allow objects to be thrown. For safety protection, frequently check components and replace immediately with original equipment manufacturer's (O.E.M.) parts only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety!"
10. Do not change the engine governor setting or overspeed the engine. The governor controls the maximum safe operating speed of the engine.
11. Maintain or replace safety labels, as necessary.
12. Observe proper disposal laws and regulations. Improper disposal of fluids and materials can harm the environment.

2

Safe Operation Practices

WARNING

This symbol points out important safety instructions which, if not followed, could endanger the personal safety and/or property of yourself and others. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate this machine. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol.

HEED ITS WARNING

Your Responsibility

Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

3

Setup and Adjustment

NOTE: Stand behind the mower as if you were going to operate it. Your right hand corresponds to the right side of the mower; your left hand corresponds to the left side of the mower.

NOTE: For shipping purposes your mower is set with the wheels in a low cutting height position. For best results raise the cutting position until it is determined which height is best for your lawn. See Step 7 for details.

IMPORTANT

DO NOT crimp the cables when lifting the handle up.

IMPORTANT

This unit is shipped without gasoline or oil in the engine. Fill up gasoline and oil as instructed in the accompanying engine manual **BEFORE** operating your mower.

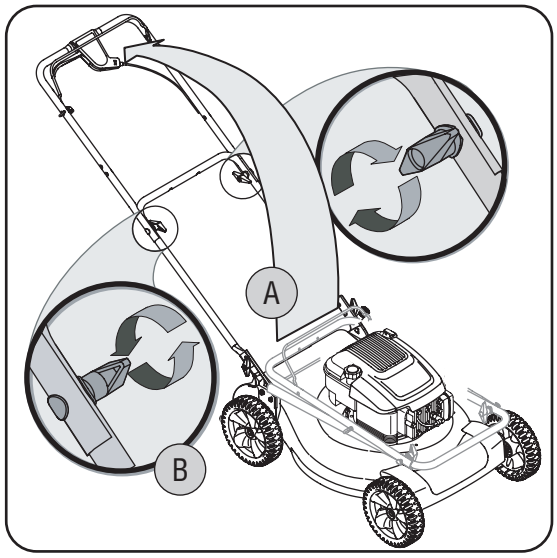


Figure 1

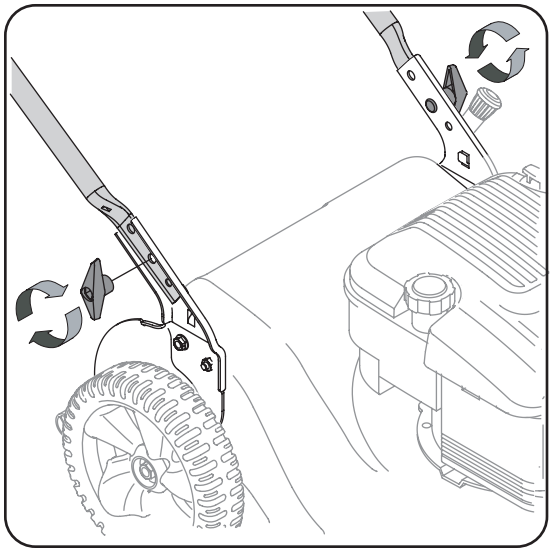


Figure 2

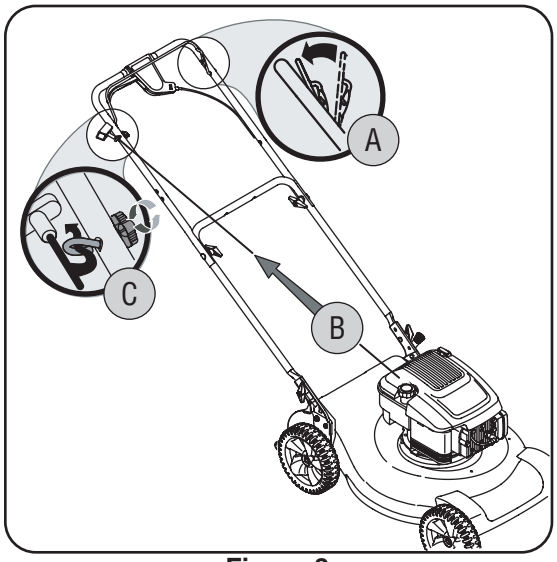


Figure 3

1. Remove grass catcher and any packing material which may be between upper and lower handles.
   a. Remove hand knobs from handle brackets and pull up and back on upper handle as shown in Figure 1. Make certain the lower handle is seated securely into the handle mounting brackets.
   b. Tighten hand knobs securing upper handle to lower handle. Make sure that each carriage bolt is seated properly in the handle.
2. Replace and tighten hand knobs removed earlier securing lower handle to handle brackets. See Figure 2.
3. The rope guide is attached to the right side of the upper handle. Loosen the wing nut which secures the rope guide. See Figure 3.
   a. Hold the blade control against upper handle.
   b. Pull starter rope out of the engine. Release the blade control.
   c. Slip starter rope into rope guide. Tighten wing nut.
4. Attach cables to the lower handle with the cable ties already on the lower handle. Insert pegs on cable ties into the holes on the lower handle. Pull cable ties tight and cut off the extra.
5. Follow steps below to attach grass catcher:
   a. Lift rear discharge door and remove mulching baffle.
   b. Place grass catcher on the pivot rod. Let go of discharge door so that it rests on the grass catcher. See Figure 4.

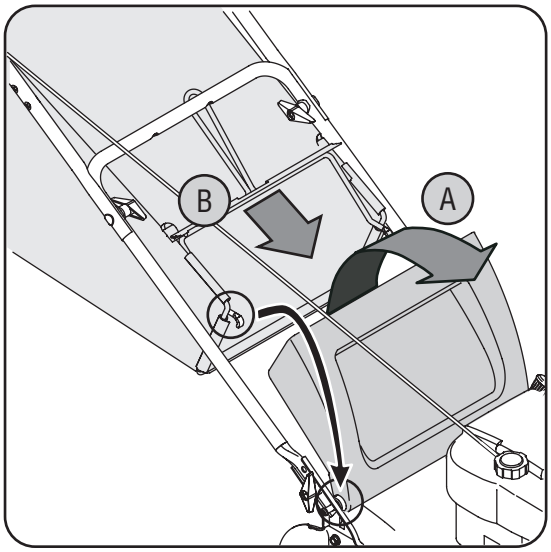


Figure 4

WARNING: Never operate mower unless the hooks on the grass catcher are firmly seated in the slots on the handle bracket assemblies, and the rear discharge door rests firmly against top of the grass catcher.

6. Follow steps below to install the mulching baffle:
   a. Lift the rear discharge door and lift the grass catcher up and off of the pivot rod, if installed.
   b. Insert the mulching baffle as shown in Figure 5 and release the rear discharge door.
7. The cutting height adjustment lever is located above the rear left wheel. See Figure 6.
   a. Pull the lever out and away from the mower.
   b. Move the lever forward or back for desired cutting height.
   c. Release lever towards mower deck.
8. The adjustment wheel is located in the drive control handle housing and is used to tighten or loosen the drive belt. You will have to adjust the drive control if any of the following happens:
   a. The mower does not propel itself with the drive control engaged.
   b. The mower's drive wheels hesitate with the drive control engaged.

If either of these conditions occur, rotate the adjustment wheel clockwise to tighten the cable and counter-clockwise to loosen the cable to adjust the drive control. See Figure 7.

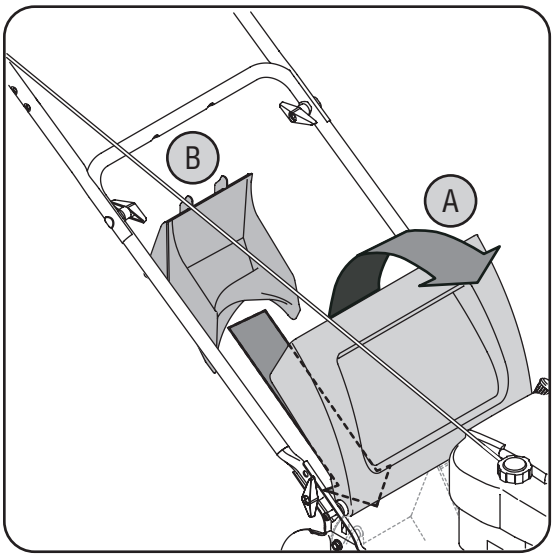


Figure 5

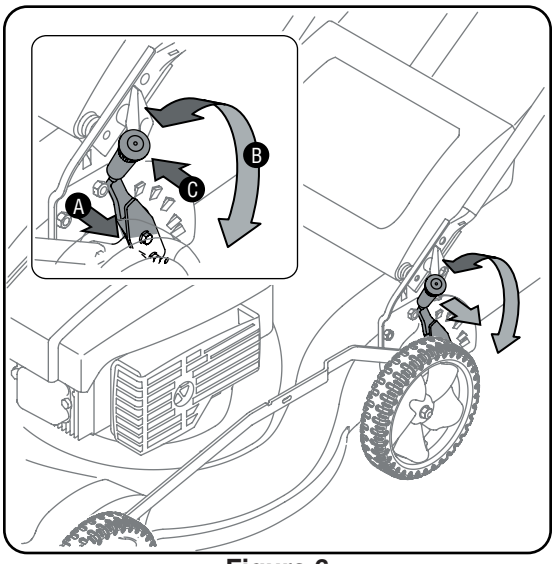


Figure 6

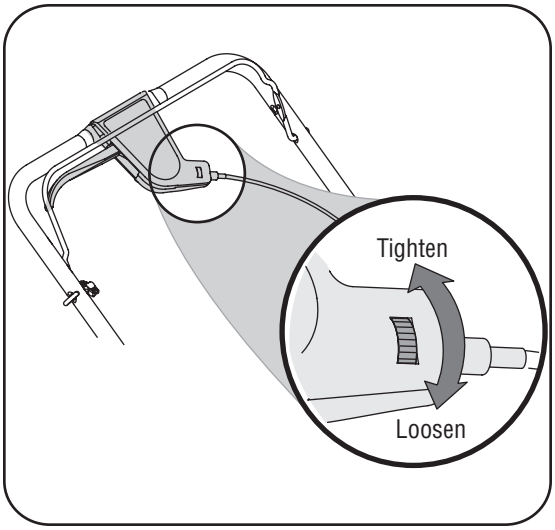


Figure 7

3

Setup and Adjustment

CUTTING HEIGHT
Step 7
For rough or uneven lawns, move the height adjustment lever to a higher position. This will help prevent scalping of the grass.

Drive Control
Step 8
For some people the drive control may not be in a comfortable position. You can adjust the handle by tightening the adjustment wheel.

WARNING

Never operate mower unless the hooks on the grass catcher are firmly seated in the slots on the handle bracket assemblies, and the rear discharge door rests firmly against top of the grass catcher.

4

Operating Your Lawn Mower

WARNING

The blade control mechanism is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operations.

Use extreme care when handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. *Never* fuel the machine indoors or while the engine is hot or running. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.

Keep hands and feet away from the chute area on cutting deck. Refer to warning label on the unit.

Know Your Lawn Mower

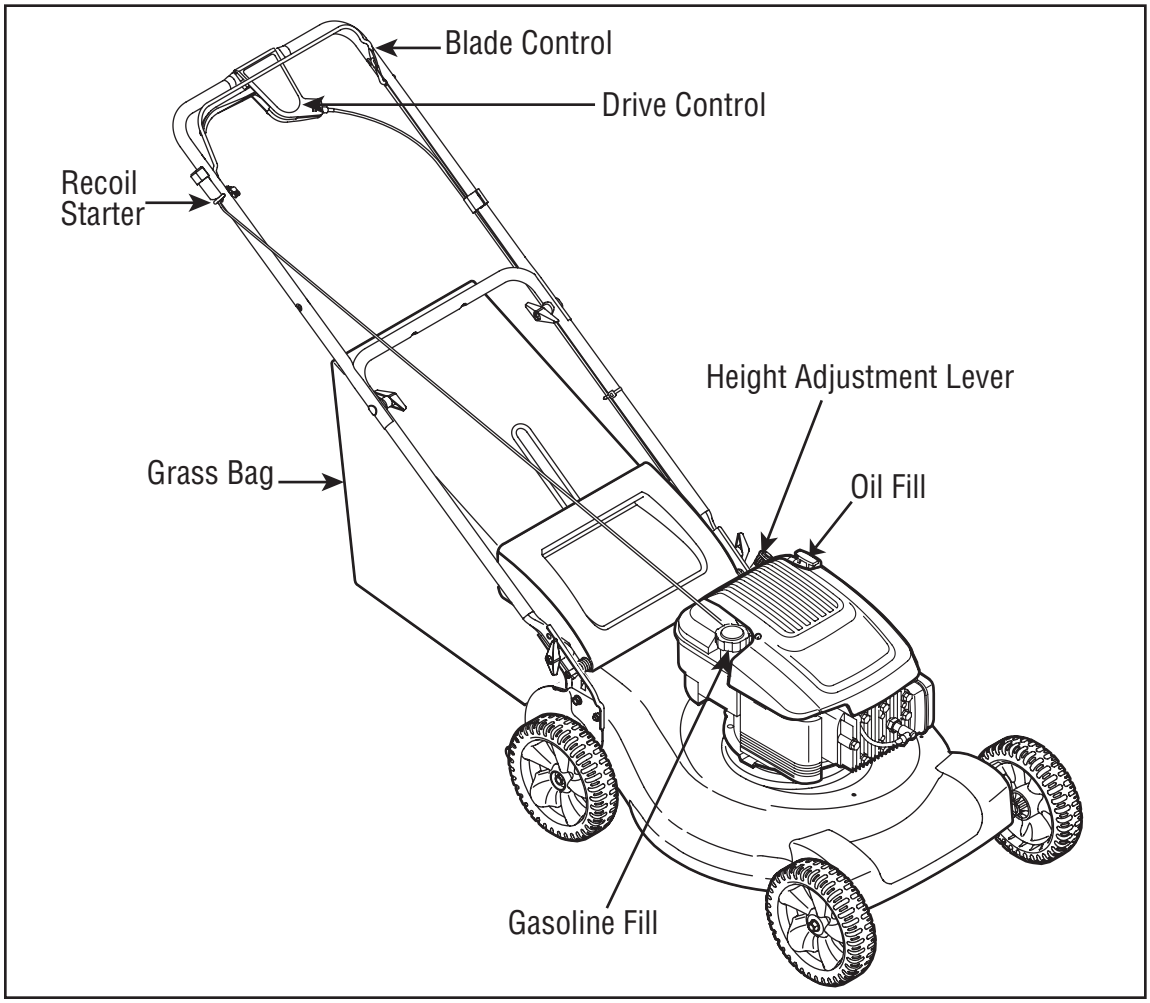


Figure 8

Now that you have set up your lawn mower for operation, get acquainted with its controls and features. These are described below and illustrated on this page. This knowledge will allow you to use your new equipment to its fullest potential.

Blade Control

The blade control is attached to the upper handle of the mower. Depress and squeeze it against the upper handle to operate the unit. Release it to stop engine and blade.

WARNING: This blade control mechanism is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operations.

Drive Control

The drive control is located on the upper handle. Squeeze the drive control to engage the drive system. Release it to disengage the drive system. Release the drive control to slow down when approaching an obstacle, making a turn, or stopping. See Figure 8.

Cutting Height Adjustment Lever

The cutting height adjustment lever is located above the left rear wheel. To adjust the cutting height, refer to the Adjustment Section on page 7.

Recoil Starter

The recoil starter is attached to the right upper handle. Stand behind the unit and pull the recoil starter rope to start the unit.

Gas and Oil Fill-Up

1. Check oil level and add oil if necessary. Follow engine manual for this. See Figure 8 above for location of the oil fill.
2. Service the engine with gasoline as instructed in the engine manual. See Figure 8 above for location of gas fill.

WARNING: Use extreme care when handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. Never fuel the machine indoors or while the engine is hot or running. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.

WARNING: The operation of any lawn mower can result in foreign objects being thrown into the eyes, which can damage your eyes severely. Always wear safety glasses while operating the mower, or while performing any adjustments or repairs on it.

Starting Engine

WARNING: Be sure no one other than the operator is standing near the lawn mower while starting engine or operating mower. Never run engine indoors or in enclosed, poorly ventilated areas. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas. Keep hands, feet, hair and loose clothing away from any moving parts on engine and lawn mower.

1. Push primer three times. Wait about two seconds between each push. See Figure 9. In temperature around 55° F or below, prime five times. Do not prime to restart a warm engine.
2. Standing behind the mower, squeeze the blade control against upper handle. See Figure 9.
3. Grasp recoil starter handle and pull rope out with a rapid, continuous, full arm stroke. See Figure 9. Keeping a firm grip on the starter handle, let the rope rewind slowly. Repeat until engine cranks. Let the rope rewind each time slowly.

Stopping Engine

1. Release blade control to stop the engine and blade.
2. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and ground against the engine.

WARNING: Wait for the blade to stop completely before doing any work on the mower or to remove the grass catcher.

Using Your Lawn Mower

WARNING: Never operate your mower without either the rear door or the entire grass catcher assembly firmly secured.

Be sure lawn is clear of stones, sticks, wire, or other objects which could damage lawn mower or engine. Such objects could be accidently thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator and others.

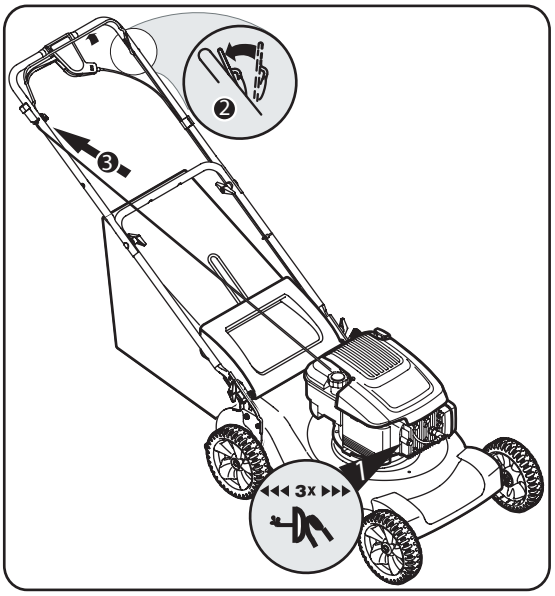


Figure 9

WARNING: If you strike a foreign object, stop the engine. Remove wire from the spark plug, thoroughly inspect mower for any damage, and repair damage before restarting and operating. Extensive vibration of mower during operation is an indication of damage. The unit should be promptly inspected and repaired.

1. Once the engine is running, squeeze the drive control against the upper handle to propel mower.
2. For best results, do not cut wet grass.
3. For a healthier lawn, never cut off more than one-third of the total length of the grass.

Using as Mulcher

For mulching grass, remove the grass catcher from the mower. The rear discharge door should be closed.

1. For effective mulching, do not cut wet grass.
2. New or thick grass may require a narrower cut. Adjust ground speed according to condition of lawn.
3. If the grass has been allowed to grow in excess of 4 inches, mulching is not recommended. Use the grass catcher to bag clippings instead.

Using Grass Catcher

You can use the grass catcher to collect clippings while you are operating the mower.

1. Attach grass catcher following instructions on page 7. Grass clippings will automatically collect in bag as you run mower. Operate mower till grass bag is full.
2. Stop engine completely by releasing the blade control. Make sure that the unit has come to a complete stop.
3. Lift discharge door and pull grass bag up and away from the mower to dispose of the grass clippings.

4

Operating Your Lawn Mower

WARNING

The operation of any lawn mower can result in foreign objects being thrown into the eyes, which can damage your eyes severely. Always wear safety glasses while operating the mower, or while performing any adjustments or repairs on it.

Be sure no one other than the operator is standing near the lawn mower while starting engine or operating mower. Never run engine indoors or in enclosed, poorly ventilated areas. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas. Keep hands, feet, hair and loose clothing away from any moving parts on engine and lawn mower.

5

Maintaining Your Lawn Mower

WARNING

Always stop engine, disconnect spark plug, and ground against engine before cleaning, lubricating or doing any kind of maintenance on your machine.

We do not recommend the use of pressure washers or garden hose to clean your unit. These may cause damage to electric components, spindles, pulleys, bearings, or the engine. The use of water will result in shortened life and reduce serviceability.

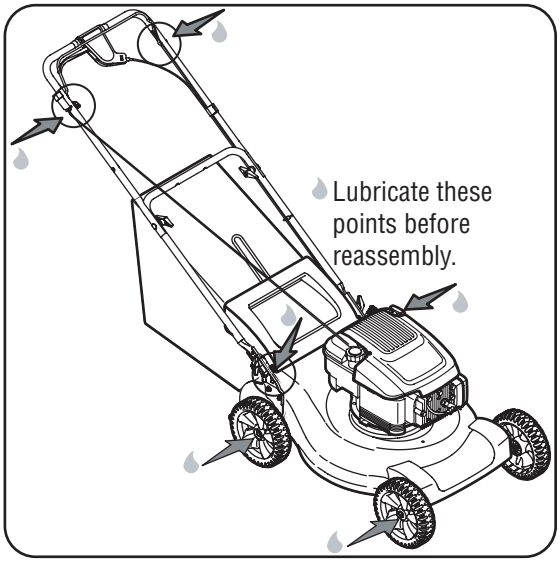


Figure 10

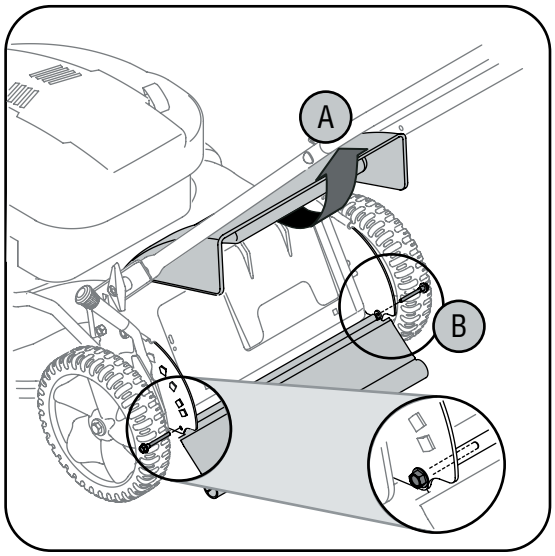


Figure 11

General Recommendations

1. Always observe safety rules when performing any maintenance.
2. The warranty on this lawn mower does not cover items that have been subjected to operator abuse or negligence. To receive full value from warranty, operator must maintain the lawn mower as instructed here.
3. Changing of engine-governed speed will void engine warranty.
4. All adjustments should be checked at least once each season.
5. Periodically check all fasteners and make sure these are tight.

WARNING: Always stop engine, disconnect spark plug, and ground against engine before cleaning, lubricating or doing any kind of maintenance on your machine.

Lubrication

1. Lubricate pivot points on the blade control at least once a season with light oil. The blade control must operate freely in both directions. See Figure 10.
2. Lubricate the wheels at least once a season with light oil (or motor oil). If wheels are removed for any reason, lubricate surface of the axle and inner surface of the wheel with light oil. See Figure 10.
3. Lubricate the torsion spring and pivot point on the rear discharge door and side mulch plug periodically with light oil to prevent rust. See Figure 10.
4. The transmission is pre-lubricated and sealed at the factory and does not require lubrication.
5. Follow the accompanying engine manual for lubrication schedule and instruction for engine lubrication.

Deck Care

1. Disconnect spark plug wire. Drain gasoline from lawn mower, or place a piece of plastic under the gas cap.
2. Tip mower so that it rests on the housing. Keep the side with the air cleaner facing up. Hold mower firmly.

WARNING: Never tip the mower more than 90 degrees in any directions and do not leave the mower tipped for any length of time. Oil can drain into the upper part of the engine causing a starting problem.

3. Scrape and clean the underside of the deck with a suitable tool. Do not spray with water.
4. Put the mower back on its wheels on the ground. If you had put plastic under the gas cap earlier, make sure to remove it now.

Engine Care

1. Maintain oil level as instructed in engine manual.
2. Service air cleaner every 25 hours under normal conditions. Clean every few hours under extremely dusty conditions. Refer to engine manual.
3. Clean spark plug and reset the gap once a season. Check engine manual for correct plug type and gap specifications.
4. Clean engine regularly with a cloth or brush. Keep the cooling system (blower housing area) clean to permit proper air circulation. Remove all grass, dirt and combustible debris from muffler area.

Replacing Rear Flap

1. To replace rear flap, lift up rear door.
2. Remove two self-tapping screws which secure rear flap to the deck. See Figure 11.

Replace with new flap and secure to deck with the two self-tapping screws removed earlier.

Blade Care

WARNING: When removing cutting blade for sharpening or replacement, protect your hands with a pair of heavy gloves or use a heavy rag to hold blade.

1. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug. Turn mower on its side making sure that the air filter and the carburetor are up.
2. Remove bolt, blade bell support, blade, and blade adapter from the engine crankshaft. See Figure 12.

NOTE: When removing the blade, blade adapter, etc., be careful not to remove or lose parts above it associated with the engine pulley.

3. The blade can be sharpened with a file or on a grinding wheel. Do not attempt to sharpen the blade while it is still on the mower. When sharpening blade, follow original angle of grind. Grind cutting edges equally to keep blade balanced.
4. Remove blade from the adapter for testing balance. Balance the blade on a round shaft screwdriver to check. Remove metal from the heavy side until it balances evenly.

WARNING: An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds. It may cause damage to mower, and could break causing personal injury.

5. Lubricate the engine crankshaft and the inner surface of the blade adapter with light oil. Slide the blade adapter onto the engine crankshaft. Place the blade on the adapter such that the side of the blade marked "Bottom" (or with part number) faces the ground when the mower is in the operating position. Make sure that blade is aligned and seated on blade adapter flanges.
6. Place blade bell support on the blade. Align notches on the blade bell support with small holes in blade. Replace hex bolt and tighten hex bolt to torque: 450 in. lbs. min., 600 in. lbs. max.

To ensure safe operation of your mower, periodically check the blade bolt for correct torque.

Belt Care

1. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground it against the engine.
2. Drain the fuel tank or place a piece of plastic beneath the cap to prevent gasoline leakage.
3. Tip mower on its side (air cleaner side of engine up).
4. Remove blade, blade adapter, and related hardware as instructed in Blade Care above.

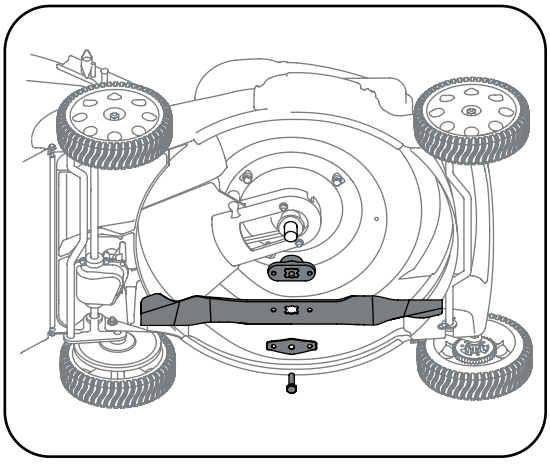


Figure 12

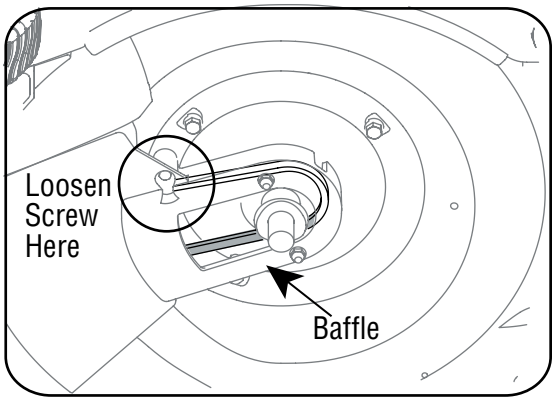


Figure 13

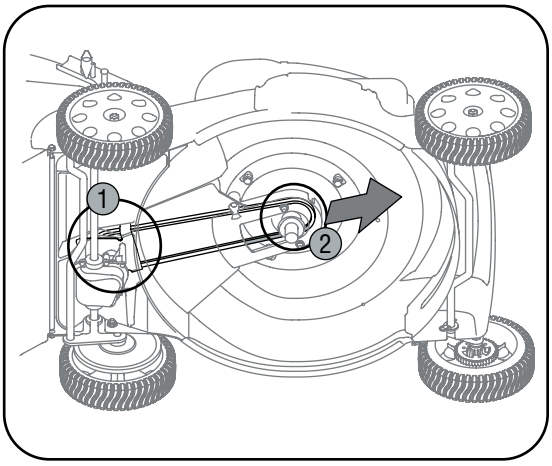


Figure 14

5. Loosen self-tapping screw that secures deck baffle to the deck. See Figure 13.
6. Working from the rear of the mower, carefully remove belt from transmission pulley.
7. Once belt is off transmission pulley, push down on deck baffle to access engine pulley and slide belt off this pulley and out from under deck. See Figure 14.
8. Replace with new belt, working it between the deck and baffle, first around the transmission pulley and then the engine pulley.

WARNING

When removing the cutting blade for sharpening or replacement or when sliding the belt around it, protect your hands with a pair of heavy gloves or use a heavy rag to hold the blade.

An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds. It may cause damage to mower, and could break causing personal injury.

5

Maintaining Your Lawn Mower

NOTE: Make certain that belt is seated correctly and that it is riding smoothly on the engine pulley and is not pinched between the lower and upper pulley halves.

9. Tighten self-tapping screw securing deck baffle loosened earlier.
10. Replace blade, blade adapter, and associated hardware. Follow instructions in Blade Care section for proper assembly.
11. Tip mower back onto its wheels and remove piece of plastic from under gas cap (if applicable).

Off-Season Storage

The following steps should be taken to prepare your lawn mower for storage.

1. Clean and lubricate mower thoroughly as described in the lubrication instructions.
2. We do not recommend the use of a pressure washer or garden hose to clean your unit.
3. Refer to engine manual for correct engine storage instructions.
4. Coat mower's cutting blade with chassis grease to prevent rusting.
5. Store mower in a dry, clean area. Do not store next to corrosive materials, such as fertilizer.

When storing any type of power equipment in a poorly ventilated or metal storage shed, care should be taken to rust-proof the equipment. Using a light oil or silicone, coat the equipment, especially cables and all moving parts of your lawn mower before storage.

Notes

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Maintaining Your Lawn Mower

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Trouble Shooting

For repairs beyond the minor adjustments listed here, contact an authorized service dealer.

Problem	Cause	Remedy
Engine fails to start	1. Blade control handle disengaged. 2. Spark plug wire disconnected. 3. Fuel tank empty or stale fuel. 4. Engine not primed. 5. Faulty spark plug. 6. Blocked fuel line. 7. Engine flooded.	1. Engage blade control handle. 2. Connect wire to spark plug. 3. Fill tank with clean, fresh gasoline. 4. Prime engine as instructed in "Operating Your Lawn Mower". 5. Clean, adjust gap, or replace. 6. Clean fuel line. 7. Wait a few minutes to restart, but do not prime.
Engine runs erratic	1. Spark plug wire loose. 2. Blocked fuel line or stale fuel. 3. Vent in gas cap plugged. 4. Water or dirt in fuel system. 5. Dirty air cleaner. 6. Carburetor out of adjustment.	1. Connect and tighten spark plug wire. 2. Clean fuel line; fill tank with clean, fresh gasoline. 3. Clear vent. 4. Drain fuel tank. Refill with fresh fuel. 5. Refer to engine manual. 6. Refer to engine manual.
Engine overheats	1. Engine oil level low. 2. Air flow restricted. 3. Carburetor not adjusted properly.	1. Fill crankcase with proper oil. 2. Remove blower housing and clean. 3. Refer to engine manual.
Occasional skips (hesitates) at high speed	1. Spark plug gap too close. 2. Carburetor idle mixture adjustment improperly set.	1. Adjust gap to .030". 2. Refer to engine manual.
Idles poorly	1. Spark plug fouled, faulty or gap too wide. 2. Carburetor improperly adjusted. 3. Dirty air cleaner.	1. Reset gap to .030" or replace spark plug. 2. Refer to engine manual. 3. Refer to engine manual.
Excessive Vibration	1. Cutting blade loose or unbalanced. 2. Bent cutting blade.	1. Tighten blade and adapter. Balance blade. 2. See an authorized service dealer.
Mower will not mulch grass	1. Wet grass. 2. Excessively high grass. 3. Dull blade.	1. Do not mow when grass is wet; wait until later to cut. 2. Mow once at a high cutting height, then mow again at desired height or make a narrower cutting path. 3. Sharpen or replace blade.
Uneven cut	1. Wheels not positioned correctly. 2. Dull blade.	1. Place all four wheels in same height position. 2. Sharpen or replace blade.
Mower will not self propel	1. Belt not installed properly. 2. Debris clogging drive operation. 3. Damaged or worn belt.	1. Check belt for proper pulley installation and movement. 2. Stop engine, disconnect spark plug wire and clean out debris. 3. Inspect and replace belt.

Safety Labels Found On Your Lawn Mower

TO REDUCE THE RISK OF INJURY, DO NOT OPERATE UNLESS DISCHARGE COVER OR GRASS CATCHER IS IN ITS PROPER PLACE. IF DAMAGED, REPLACE IMMEDIATELY.
DANGER
KEEP HANDS and FEET AWAY

PLACE MODEL PLATE HERE
DANGER
AVOID SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH
• KEEP HANDS AND FEET AWAY FROM ROTATING PARTS.
• REMOVE OBJECTS THAT CAN BE THROWN BY THE BLADE IN ANY DIRECTION. WEAR SAFETY GLASSES.
• DO NOT MOW WHEN CHILDREN OR OTHERS ARE AROUND.
• USE EXTRA CAUTION ON SLOPES. DO NOT MOW SLOPES GREATER THAN 15°. MOW ACROSS NEVER UP AND DOWN. NEVER PULL MOWER CLOSE TO YOUR FEET. LOOK DOWN AND BEHIND BEFORE AND WHILE MOVING BACKWARDS.
MAX 15°
READ OPERATOR'S MANUAL . KEEP SAFETY DEVICES (BLADE CONTROL, TRAILING SHIELD, DISCHARGE COVER, ETC.) IN PLACE AND WORKING. IF DAMAGED, REPLACE IMMEDIATELY.

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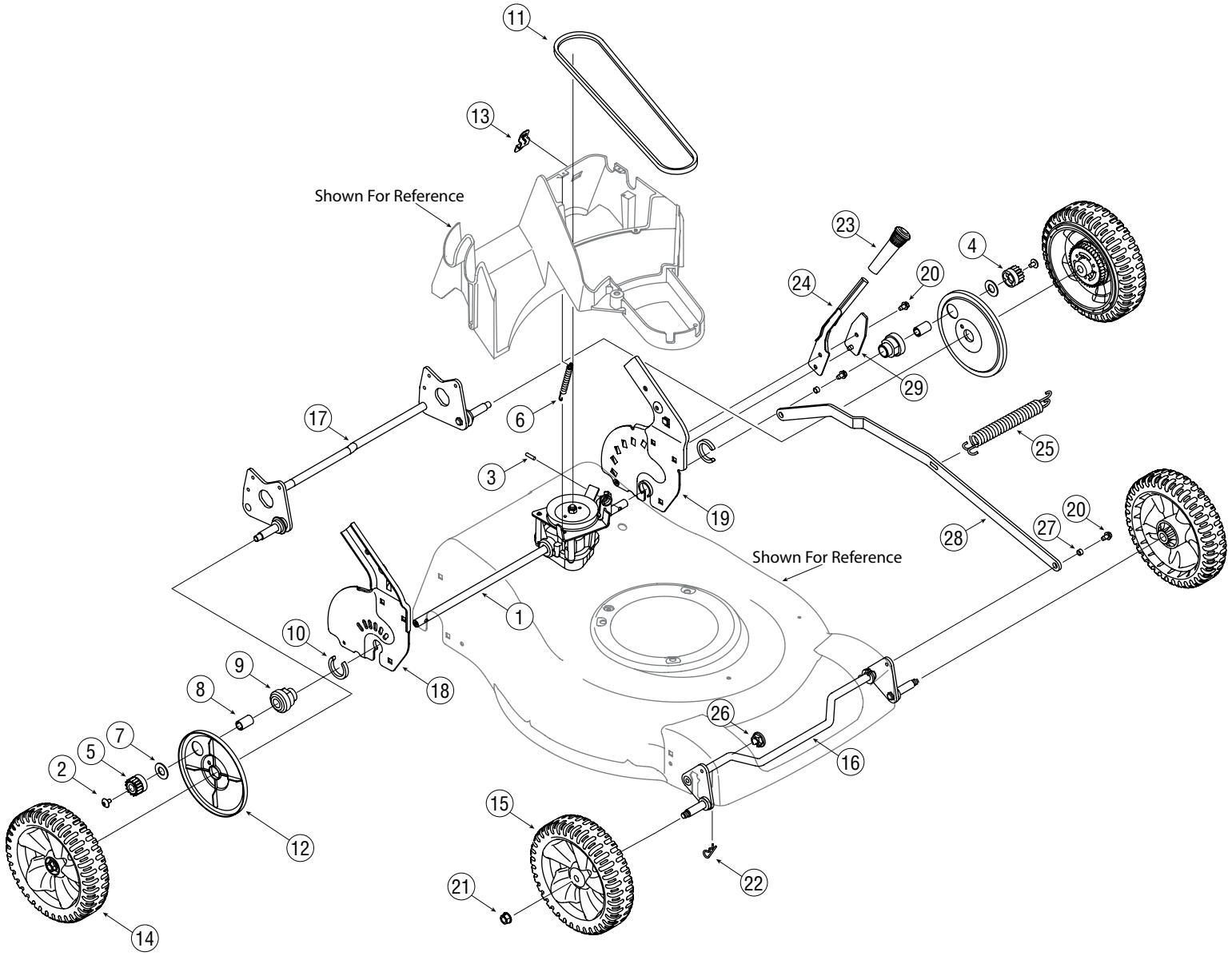
Safety Labels

WARNING

DO NOT remove safety (or any) labels from mower for any reason.



1	618-04229	Transmission Assembly
2	710-04223	Screw, M6 x 1.0
3	715-0221	Dowel Pin
4	717-04184	Spur Gear, 14T - LH
5	717-04192	Spur Gear, 14T - RH
6	732-0611	Extension Spring, .38 OD x 3.6
7	736-0414	Flat Washer, .570 x 1.120 x .062
8	741-0710	Sleeve Bearing, .502 x .627 x 1.00
9	748-04073	Transmission Bearing Support
10	750-04317	Clip Spacer
11	754-04078A	V-Belt, 3L x 35.5
12	782-7551A	Wheel Dust Cover
13	787-01262	Transmission Cable Bracket
14	634-04209	Rear Wheel
15	734-04087	Front Wheel

16	687-02133	Front Bracket Assembly
17	687-02134	Rear Bracket Assembly
18	687-02148	Handle Bracket Assembly - RH
19	687-02149	Handle Bracket Assembly - LH
20	710-0599	TT Screw, 1/4-20 x .500
21	712-0431	Flange Lock Nut, 3/8-16
22	714-0174	Cotter Pin
23	720-0223	Grip
24	732-04261	Spring Lever
25	732-04271	Extension Spring, .500 ID x 6.85 Lg
26	741-04136	Split Hex Flange Bearing
27	750-04305	Spacer
28	787-01235	Cross Bracket
29	787-01251	Stop Bracket

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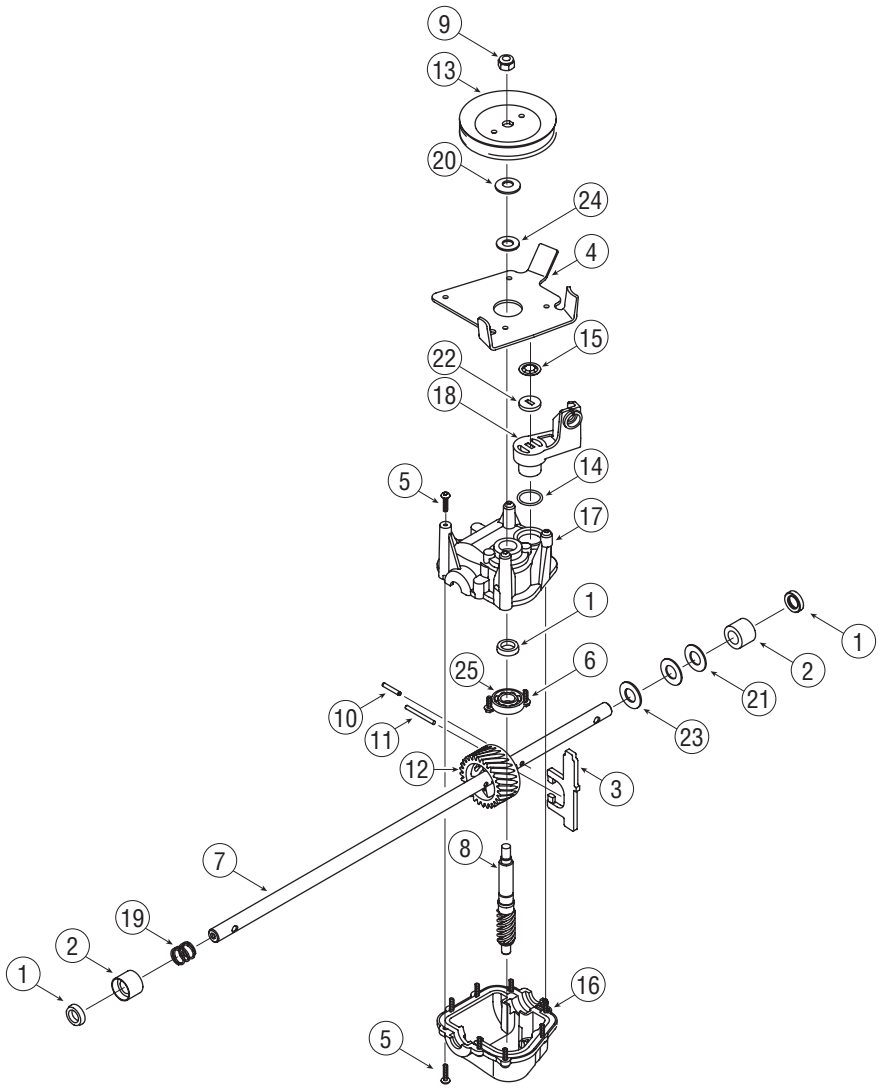
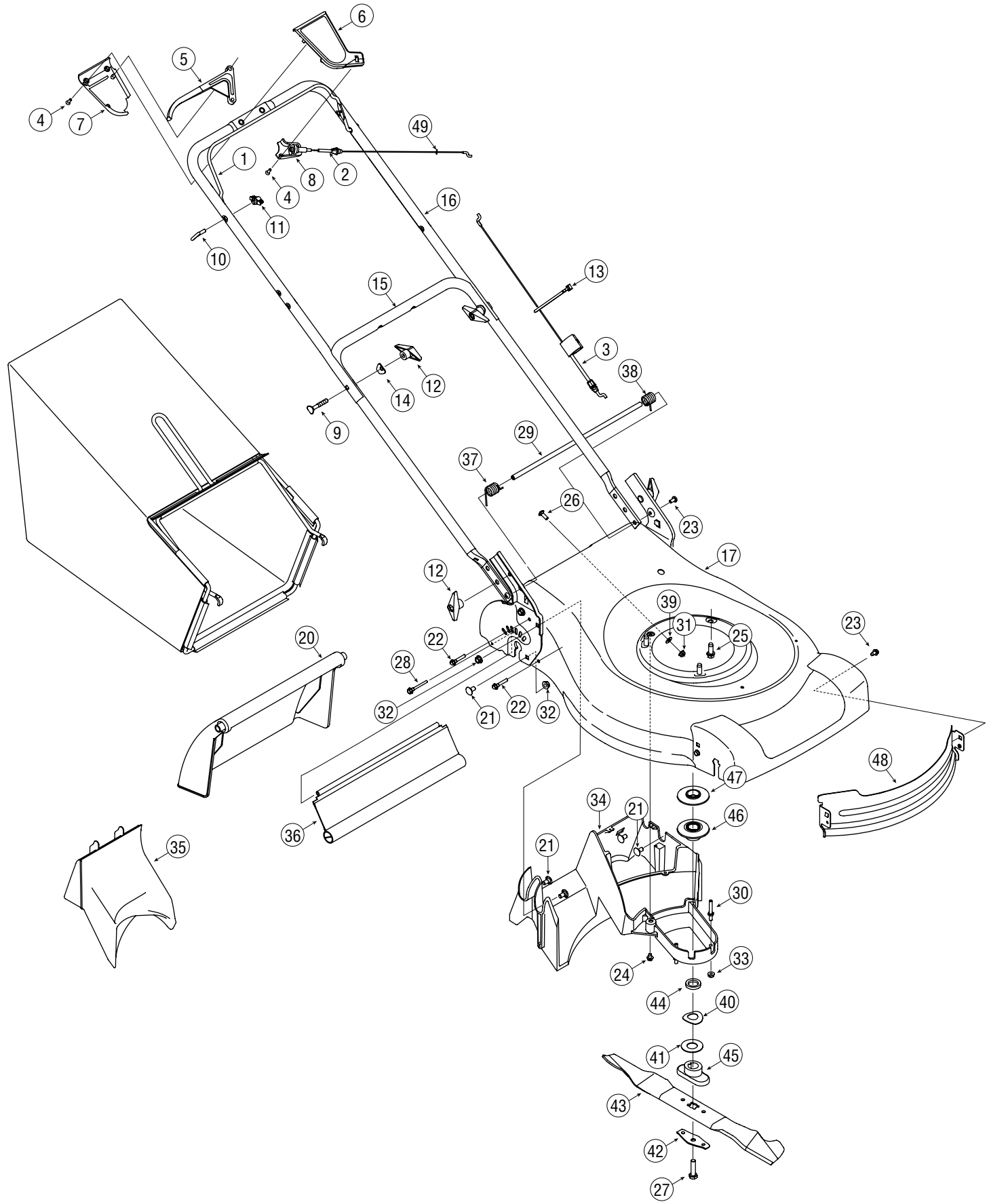
Parts List

To order replacement parts, contact 1-800-800-7310 or visit www.mtdproducts.com.



1	721-04107	Oil Seal
2	741-04106	Plastic Bushing
3	707-04409	Shift Fork
4	707-04540	Transmission Bracket
5	710-04329	Screw, .159 OD x .610
6	710-04374	Hex Screw, .159 OD x .43
7	711-04386	Output Shaft
8	711-04394	Input Shaft
9	712-0411	Hex Lock Nut, 5/16-24
10	715-0129	Spirol Pin
11	715-04030	Dowel Pin
12	717-04194	Plastic Gear, 28T
13	756-04151	Pulley, 3.36 OD

14	721-04110	O-Ring
15	726-04043	Push Nut, 3/8 ID x 3/4 OD
16	731-04883	Lower Housing
17	731-05099	Upper Housing
18	731-05100	Clutch Lever
19	732-04278	Compression Spring, .525 ID x .588
20	736-0105	Bell Washer, .375 x .870 x .063
21	736-04170	Flat Washer, .508 ID x 1.00 OD
22	736-04178	Felt Slotted Washer
23	736-0572	Flat Washer, .510 x 1.00 x .060
24	736-0864	Thrust Washer, .375 x .812 x .060
25	741-04116	Ball Bearing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1	747-1161A	Blade Control
2	746-04195	Drive Cable
3	746-04213	Control Cable
4	710-1667	Screw, #10-16 x .625
5	731-0620	Drive Control Lever
6	731-1057	Upper Control Cover
7	731-1058	Lower Control Cover
8	731-1059	Mounting Cap
9	710-1174	Carriage Bolt, 5/16-18 x 2.0
10	710-1205	Eye Bolt
11	720-0279	Wing Nut
12	720-0284	Handle Knob
13	725-0157	Cable Tie
14	736-0451	Saddle Washer, .320 x .93 x .060
15	749-04202	Lower Handle
16	749-04209	Upper Handle
17	787-01230	21” Deck
18	647-04048	Grass Catcher Frame
19	664-04038	Grass Catcher
20	731-05017	Rear Door
21	710-0260A	Carriage Bolt, 5/16-18 x .62
22	710-1241	Screw, 1/4-15 x 1.00
23	710-0599	TT Screw, 1/4-20 x .500
24	710-0653	TT Screw, 1/4-20 x .375
25	710-0654A	Screw, 3/8-16 x 1.00

26	710-0703	Carriage Screw, 1/4-20 x .75
27	710-1044	Screw, 3/8-24 x 1.50
28	710-1802	Screw, 1/4-20 x 2.00
29	711-04374	Door Pivot Rod
30	711-0993	Belt Guard Pin
31	712-04064	Flange Lock Nut, 1/4-20
32	712-3004A	Flange Lock Nut, 5/16-18
33	712-3027	Flange Lock Nut, 1/4-20
34	731-05154	Deck Baffle
35	731-05157	Mulch Plug
36	731-05185	Trailshield
37	732-04264	Door Torsion Spring - RH
38	732-04265	Door Torsion Spring - LH
39	736-0463	Flat Washer, .25 x .630 x .0515
40	736-0513	Spring Washer, .890 x 1.70 x .048
41	736-0514	Flat Washer, .885 x 1.850 x .060
42	736-0524B	Blade Bell Support
43	742-0741	21” Mulching Blade
44	748-0358	Engine Spacer
45	748-0376C	Blade Adapter
46	756-04156	Lower Engine Pulley
47	756-04157	Upper Engine Pulley
48	787-01224	Front Deck Baffle
49	735-0226	Rubber Gromet

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Parts List

To order replacement parts, contact 1-800-800-7310 or visit www.mtdproducts.com.

IMPORTANT

For a proper working machine, use Factory Approved Parts. **V-BELTS** are specially designed to engage and disengage safely. A substitute (non OEM) V-Belt can be dangerous by not disengaging completely.

MANUFACTURER'S LIMITED WARRANTY FOR

YARD-MAN by MTD®

The limited warranty set forth below is given by MTD LLC with respect to new merchandise purchased and used in the United States, its possessions and territories.

"MTD" warrants this product against defects in material and workmanship for a period of two (2) years commencing on the date of original purchase and will, at its option, repair or replace, free of charge, any part found to be defective in materials or workmanship. This limited warranty shall only apply if this product has been operated and maintained in accordance with the Operator's Manual furnished with the product, and has not been subject to misuse, abuse, commercial use, neglect, accident, improper maintenance, alteration, vandalism, theft, fire, water, or damage because of other peril or natural disaster. Damage resulting from the installation or use of any part, accessory or attachment not approved by MTD for use with the product(s) covered by this manual will void your warranty as to any resulting damage.

Normal wear parts are warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of purchase. Normal wear parts include, but are not limited to items such as: batteries, belts, blades, blade adapters, grass bags, rider deck wheels, seats, snow thrower skid shoes, shave plates, auger spiral rubber and tires.

HOW TO OBTAIN SERVICE: Warranty service is available, WITH PROOF OF PURCHASE, through your local authorized service dealer. To locate the dealer in your area, check your Yellow Pages, or contact MTD LLC at P.O. Box 361131, Cleveland, Ohio 44136-0019, or call 1-800-800-7310 or log on to our Web site at www.mtdproducts.com.

This limited warranty does **not** provide coverage in the following cases:

a. The engine or component parts thereof. These items may carry a separate manufacturer's warranty. Refer to applicable manufacturer's warranty for terms and conditions.
b. Log splitter pumps, valves, and cylinders have a separate one year warranty.
c. Routine maintenance items such as lubricants, filters, blade sharpening, tune-ups, brake adjustments, clutch adjustments, deck adjustments, and normal deterioration of the exterior finish due to use or exposure.
d. Service completed by someone other than an authorized service dealer.
e. MTD does not extend any warranty for products sold or exported outside of the United States, its possessions and territories, except those sold through MTD's authorized channels of export distribution.
f. Replacement parts that are not genuine MTD parts.
g. Transportation charges and service calls.

No implied warranty, including any implied warranty of merchantability of fitness for a particular purpose, applies after the applicable period of express written warranty above as to the parts as identified. No other express warranty, whether written or oral, except as mentioned above, given by any person or entity, including a dealer or retailer, with respect to any product, shall bind MTD. During the period of the warranty, the exclusive remedy is repair or replacement of the product as set forth above.

The provisions as set forth in this warranty provide the sole and exclusive remedy arising from the sale. MTD shall not be liable for incidental or consequential loss or damage including, without limitation, expenses incurred for substitute or replacement lawn care services or for rental expenses to temporarily replace a warranted product.

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, or limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above exclusions or limitations may not apply to you.

In no event shall recovery of any kind be greater than the amount of the purchase price of the product sold. **Alteration of safety features of the product shall void this warranty.** You assume the risk and liability for loss, damage, or injury to you and your property and/or to others and their property arising out of the misuse or inability to use the product.

This limited warranty shall not extend to anyone other than the original purchaser or to the person for whom it was purchased as a gift.

HOW STATE LAW RELATES TO THIS WARRANTY: This limited warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

IMPORTANT: Owner must present Original Proof of Purchase to obtain warranty coverage.

MTD LLC, P.O. BOX 361131 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44136-0019; Phone: 1-800-800-7310